

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A weight determining mechanism for a piece of luggage, the mechanism comprising:

a grip carrying device designed to engage a part of a human body;

at least one resistance mechanism having opposing first and second ends, wherein said resistance mechanism is altered by the an application of force on said resistance mechanism whenever the piece of luggage is lifted via the carrying device, said resistance mechanism being integrally attached to a piece coupled to the piece of luggage at the first end and the second end and to said grip so that the weight of said luggage comprises provides said application of force on said resistance mechanism when said luggage is lifted by said grip; and

at least one indicator viewable from an exterior of the grip and responsive to alteration of said resistance mechanism when the luggage is lifted via the carrying device, wherein said indicator provides an indication of the weight of said the piece of luggage based on the alteration of said resistance mechanism.

2. (currently amended) The mechanism of claim 1 wherein said resistance mechanism is selected from the group comprises comprising: at least one a coil spring, a rotational dial, an elastic material, a magnetic component, an electrical component, a chemically component reactive to lifting of the bag, an electrochemical element and equivalents thereof.

3. (currently amended) The mechanism of claim 1 wherein said piece of luggage comprises one of a backpack, a suitcase, a briefcase, a computer bag, a duffel bag, an upright bag, a garment bag, a shoulder bag, and equivalents thereof.

4. (currently amended) The mechanism of claim 1 wherein said ~~piece of luggage comprises a suitcase~~ carrying device comprises one of a carrying handle, a handle grip, a support, a shoulder strap, a hip strap, and equivalents and combinations thereof.

5. (currently amended) The mechanism of claim 1 wherein said ~~piece of luggage comprises a shoulder bag~~ carrying device is generally flexible.

6. (currently amended) The mechanism of claim 1 wherein said resistance mechanism is attached to said luggage via a mounting strip on one of said first and second ends, said mounting strip slidable relative to said bag when the piece of luggage is lifted via the carrying device.

7. (currently amended) The mechanism of claim ~~6~~ wherein said mounting strip is attached to said luggage by having an elongated hole located toward a first end of said mounting strip and placed around a rivet which is in turn connected the exterior surface of said luggage 1 wherein said indicator is configured to display a first color corresponding to a first predetermined weight range, and a second color for a second predetermined weight range.

8. (currently amended) The mechanism of claim ~~7~~ wherein said mounting strip is attached to said resistance mechanism at a second end spaced from said first end 1 wherein said indicator comprises a first indicator connected to said first end, and a second indicator connected to said second end.

9. (currently amended) The mechanism of claim ~~8~~ wherein said resistance mechanism comprises at least one coil spring 1 wherein said indicator comprises a digital display indicator.

10. (currently amended) The mechanism of claim ~~9~~ wherein said at least one coil spring is within a hollow interior of said grip 1 further comprising a reset or re-zero

button, thereby facilitating independent determination of a weight of the piece of luggage and a weight of items loaded into the bag.

11. (currently amended) The mechanism of ~~claim 10~~ claim 1 wherein said indicator comprises a series of non-numerical markings ~~on said mounting strip~~.

12. (currently amended) The mechanism of claim 11 wherein said series of non-numerical markings are concealed within said carrying device until the piece of luggage is lifted, and said series of markings are selectively revealed from within said hollow interior of said grip such that the last of said series of markings so revealed indicates to indicate said weight of said piece of luggage.

13. (currently amended) The mechanism of ~~claim 12~~ claim 1 wherein said series of markings ~~comprises a series of color bands~~ indicator comprises a plurality of color bands that are sequentially pulled from the carrying device and revealed when the piece of luggage is lifted under increasing amounts of weight, each of said plurality of color bands corresponding to a predetermined weight range and indicating a relative weight of the bag according to predetermined guidelines for a user.

14. (original) The mechanism of claim 13 wherein said color bands comprise bands of red, yellow, and green.

15. (currently amended) The mechanism of ~~claim 11~~ claim 1 wherein said indicator comprises a series of numerical markings ~~comprises numbers~~.

16-18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) A weight determining mechanism for a piece of luggage, the mechanism comprising:

means for lifting said piece of luggage, said means for lifting being an integral part of said luggage;

means for determining the weight of said piece of luggage, said means for determining being included within said means for lifting; and

means for providing an indication of said weight to a user;

wherein said weight is distributed across said means for determining solely by lifting said means for lifting.

20. (new) The mechanism of claim 19 wherein said piece of luggage comprises one of a backpack, a suitcase, a briefcase, a computer bag, a duffel bag, an upright bag, a garment bag, and a shoulder bag.

21. (new) The mechanism of claim 19 wherein said means for determining is configured to detect an amount of force applied to the means for lifting whenever the piece of baggage is lifted via the means for lifting.

22. (new) The mechanism of claim 19 wherein said means for determining comprises one of a spring means, rotational dial means, an elastic means, a magnetic means, an electrical means, a chemical means, an electrochemical means and combinations thereof.

23. (new) The mechanism of claim 19 wherein the means for providing an indication of said weight to a user comprises one of a color coded means, numerical marking means, non-numerical markings means, and a digital display.

24. (new) The mechanism of claim 19 wherein the means for providing an indication of said weight to a user comprises means to indicate a predetermined range of weights to a user.

25. (new) The mechanism of claim 19 further comprising means for resetting or re-zeroing the means for determining, thereby facilitating independent determination of a weight of the piece of luggage and a weight of items loaded into the bag.

26. (new) The mechanism of claim 19 wherein the means for determining comprises a first end and a second end, each of the first and second ends being coupled to the piece of luggage, wherein a weight of the piece of luggage is carried across the means for determining when the piece of luggage is lifted via the means for lifting.

27. (new) A piece of luggage comprising:

a luggage container portion;

a generally flexible lifting element mounted to the luggage container portion and forming an integral part of the container portion;

an on-board weight determining mechanism integrated into the lifting element;

wherein the weight determining mechanism comprises a resistance element mechanically subjected to a load bearing weight of the container portion whenever the luggage container portion is lifted; and

an indicator operatively coupled to the resistant element and visually indicating information regarding the load bearing weight to a user.